

Application No. 09/835,673  
Amendment dated March 10, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2004

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12, and 15-30 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-12 and allowed Claims 15-30.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, and 4-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meller (U.S. Patent No. 4,642,738) in view of Bianchetti (U.S. Patent No. 6,095,810). Claim 3 stands rejected over Meller '738 in view of Bianchetti '810 and further in view of Schuss (U.S. Patent No. 4,498,868).

Further to a telephone interview with the Examiner conducted March 2, 2004, Applicants have amended Independent Claims 1 and 8 to place these claims in condition for allowance. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in conducting the March 2, 2004 telephone interview. Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication that, upon entry of the current amendment, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

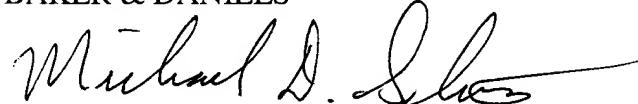
In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, BAKER & DANIELS.

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If any questions concerning this application should arise, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 219/424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & DANIELS



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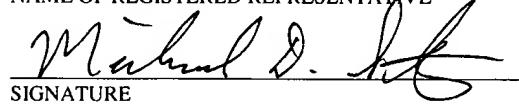
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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231, on: March 10, 2004

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NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE

  
SIGNATURE

March 10, 2004  
DATE